

than the Minnesota winter. He mounted a legal challenge based on a clear principle: no Minnesotan should be disenfranchised. As chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, I was proud to support Norm as he pursued his case in the courts. And once the courts had spoken, I respected the grace with which he conceded the race, and the optimism he has shown for his own future, and that of our country.

Norm accomplished much in Washington, but I think he remains proudest of what he achieved closer to home. After Minnesota's hockey team moved to my home state of Texas back in 1993, Mayor Norm Coleman of St. Paul led the effort to bring the National Hockey League back to the Twin Cities. Since the first puck dropped in 2000, the Minnesota Wild have sold out every game they have played, and every fan owes a debt of thanks to Norm Coleman.

I too am thankful for Norm Coleman, because he set a good example for all of us. He never let public service go to his head. He always put his faith and family first. He fought hard to keep his seat, but never failed to keep his cool.

I wish Norm and Laurie the very best, as their journey together continues.

#### PROTECTING TENANTS AT FORECLOSURE IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for too long, tenants have been the innocent victims of the foreclosure crisis. Countless tenants across the country have been forced to leave their homes simply because their landlords were unable to pay their mortgages. Too often, these tenants had no idea that the property was even under foreclosure until the authorities arrived at their door to inform them that they must vacate the property immediately.

I was pleased to work with Senator KERRY to include the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 in the recently enacted Helping Families Save their Homes Act. This new law protects tenants facing evictions due to foreclosure by ensuring they can remain in their homes for the length of the lease or, at the least, receive sufficient notice and time to relocate their families and lives to a new home. The full Senate approved the bill on May 6, 2009, and President Obama signed it into law on May 20, 2009.

These protections are so important that my colleague Senator KERRY and I want to ensure that families and mortgage holders know their rights and obligations under the law.

Under the new law, all bona fide tenants who began renting prior to transfer of title by foreclosure of their rental property must be given at least 90 days' notice before being required to vacate the property. In addition, these bona fide tenants are allowed to remain in place for the remainder of any leases entered into prior to the transfer of title by foreclosure. These leases

may be terminated earlier only if the property is transferred to someone who intends to reside in the property and only if the tenants are given at least 90 days' notice of the fact of such sale. Successors in interest to properties with section 8 housing choice voucher tenants automatically assume the obligations of the former owner under the housing assistance payments contract.

These basic protections are the law for tenants in every State, unless States have laws or practices that provide greater protections. I want to ask Senator KERRY, the original author of the act, if I have correctly expressed the intent of this legislation.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I was pleased to work with Senator DODD to enact this legislation to help tenants affected by foreclosures.

No one in the Senate has worked harder to fight against the scourge of foreclosures than Chairman DODD. As a former member of the Senate Banking Committee, I know Chairman DODD has tirelessly fought to assist low and moderate-income families and to help tenants who need protections from foreclosures or unscrupulous landlords. Without his efforts, families in Connecticut and across the Nation would not have access to critically needed protections and many more American families would be facing foreclosure.

I agree with Chairman DODD that it is important that persons and entities acquiring properties by foreclosure follow the law, and that tenant families obtain the benefits the law was intended to provide.

I also agree with Chairman DODD's statement of the intent of the legislation. As the chairman stated, the law was intended to provide all bona fide tenants, who began renting prior to transfer of title by foreclosure of their rental property, be given at least 90 days' notice before being required to vacate the property. In addition, these bona fide tenants are allowed to remain in place for the remainder of any leases entered into prior to the transfer of title by foreclosure. These leases may be terminated earlier only if the property is transferred to someone who intends to reside in the property and only if the tenants are given at least 90 days' notice of the fact of such sale. Successors in interest to properties with section 8 housing choice voucher tenants automatically assume the obligations of the former owner under the Housing Assistance Payments contract.

Both the Federal Reserve and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have acted quickly to issue notifications to the entities that they regulate describing the law in the same way. Their notifications stated how regulated institutions are expected to comply with the terms of the act. These regulatory actions are crucial for the proper implementation of the act because foreclosing entities, who often wind up owning the properties after the foreclosure, have a responsi-

bility to obey the law. Families in these precarious circumstances should not be forced individually to assert their rights under the law.

Mr. DODD. I agree with Senator KERRY. Again, I thank the Senator for bringing the original legislation forward and working with me to enact it. I look forward to working with Senator KERRY and all my colleagues to ensure that families' rights under the law are known and protected.

#### DROUGHT RELIEF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I speak on behalf of the farmers and ranchers of Texas. Like millions of Americans in other States, Texans love the land. From the hill country to the river valleys—from the panhandle to the gulf coast—our land helps define who we are.

And for many Texans, the land is their livelihood. One in seven jobs in our State is tied to agriculture. We lead the Nation in several crop and livestock industries—including the production of cattle and cotton. Texas farmers and ranchers help feed and clothe Americans in every State—and in dozens of countries around the world.

Our farmers and ranchers are tough people—and they are seeing tough times. Central and south Texas is experiencing some of the driest conditions in the country today. Seventy counties in our State are experiencing extreme or exceptional drought—the two worst classifications made by the USDA. These areas represent 42.5 million acres—about 25 percent of Texas—and nearly equal to the total land area of New England.

The drought has severely impacted Texas farmers and ranchers. According to one recent study, economic losses will reach \$3.6 billion by the end of this year—a little less than \$1 billion in livestock losses—and the rest in crop losses.

A few weeks ago, I met with some ranchers and farmers in San Angelo, TX. They shared with me how drought conditions were devastating production—even as the recession weakened demand. They also asked me a question: Where was the money Washington promised to help them through these tough times?

Their question is the same question I am asking today: Where is the money Congress authorized last year for the Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program?

The SURE Program was included in the farm bill we passed in June of 2008. It received broad bipartisan support. It created a trust fund of about \$3 billion a year to help farmers and ranchers during tough times.

Yet despite becoming law more than a year ago, the SURE Program has still not been implemented by the USDA. Not a single farmer or rancher has received any assistance from the trust fund so far. No payments had even been